
From: Olivia Shields <oshields@urbanpeaceinstitute.org>
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To: info-POC
Subject: Public Comment: Agenda Items 3, 4 and 5

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Hello,

My name is Olivia Shields with Urban Peace Institute and Los Angeles Youth Uprising Coalition giving public comment regarding items 3, 4 and 5. Firstly, the Citation Diversion Program run by Probation should be shut down immediately. The lack of transparency and accountability within the program is alarming given the enormous affects its punishments can have on a young person's life. While we requested data from 2016-2020, we have only received data from 2019, which alone did not show any positive impact whatsoever. We do know that driver's license suspension has a severely negative impact on kids' lives, impairing their ability to get to school, work, drive family members, and potentially resulting in a misdemeanor. Even the court itself where youth are expected to show up is extremely inaccessible, given that all hearings are held in one room in Van Nuys. CDP is an antiquated, draconian program that must be ended as soon as possible. All old CDP tickets should be dismissed. Any citations that do come to CDP should instead be directed to YDD or should not be citations at all, but rather counsel and release situations. On agenda item 4, Probation and the BSCC seem to have forgotten that in the process of working to make the compound "suitable," young people still endure atrocious conditions every day. Youth are shackled when moving around the compound even for situations like going to dentist appointments, youth are confined to their rooms regularly or subjected to solitary confinement, youth must eat food that they have found maggots in. No child should be subjected to these state sanctioned horrors. Lastly, regarding agenda item 5, we are aware of the 13 young people with secure track dispositions who are trapped at the compound because Probation is engaging in labor negotiations with their staff. The programming and support that young people need to grow and heal does not exist at the compound; as we continue to push for better facilities and greater access to services in the future, you all must remember that young people suffer daily in the meantime.

Thank you,
Olivia

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